



## CSM Blackwood – Warrior Leader Course Speech



COMMAND SERGEANT'S MAJOR, SERGEANT'S MAJOR, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, VISITORS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO JOIN ME THIS MORNING IN PROPERLY HONORING THE GRADUATES OF THE WARRIOR LEADERSHIP COURSE, CLASS 04-07.

TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT ONE OF THE REASONS THESE GRADUATES HAVE PERFORMED SO WELL IS BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT YOU'VE GIVEN THEM. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR SUCCESS.

IN THIS CLASS BEFORE YOU, THERE ARE 13 GRADUATES FROM POLAND AND 2 FROM THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA. THE FACT THAT THEY ARE HERE TRAINING ALONGSIDE AMERICAN SOLDIERS SPEAKS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF COALITION BUILDING.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN THE TRAINING WITH OUR AMERICAN SOLDIERS AS WE TOGETHER, STRIVE TO REACH THE PINNACLE OF SUCCESS IN OUR PROFESSION AS SOLDIERS.

BEFORE I ADDRESS THIS SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT, I WANT YOU, THE GRADUATES, TO KNOW THAT I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SACRIFICES AND YOUR SERVICE.

I REALIZE THAT EACH OF YOU HAS A CHOICE IN WHETHER TO SERVE OUR NATION, AN ENDURING CHOICE ESPECIALLY DURING A TIME OF CRITICAL DEMAND ON OUR RESOURCES AND ARMED FORCES.

THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO BE LEADERS IN OUR GREAT ARMY CLEARLY DEFINES YOUR COMMITMENT, DEDICATION, AND DESIRE TO SERVE OUR COUNTRY WITH HONOR AND COURAGE. ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL ARMY AND A THANKFUL NATION, I EXPRESS MY RESPECT AND ADMIRATION TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT AND SERVICE.

AS NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS, WE ARE CHARGED TO LEAD, AND HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF LEADING AMERICA'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS. BEING A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER AND SOLDIER IS NOT ALWAYS EASY; IF IT WAS EVERYONE WOULD OR COULD DO IT.

IN TODAY'S OPERATING ENVIRONMENT, AS A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER, IT WILL TAKE PATIENT, TOLERANT, COMMITTED, AND COMPETENT LEADERSHIP WITH A SENSE OF ADAPTABLE FLEXIBILITY TO SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVE THE TRAINING OF OUR GREAT WARRIORS WHO SERVE AND JOIN DURING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.

IN ADDITION, THE TRAINING OF OUR SOLDIERS FOR WAR AND "BUILDING THE BENCH" FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR ARMY WILL DEPEND ON IT, AND

DETERMINATION OF CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR THE FUTURE WILL RELY ON THIS LEADERSHIP.

AND WHAT ARE SOME OF THE QUALITIES IT MAY TAKE TO BE THAT SUCCESSFUL LEADER TODAY? I WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH FOUR THINGS: UNQUESTIONED INTEGRITY, DISCIPLINED COURAGE, CREATIVE VISION, AND THE WILL TO PERSEVERE.

THESE FOUR QUALITIES ARE NOT ALONE FOR YOU TO BE SUCCESSFUL BUT THEY GIVE YOU A SOLID FOUNDATION TO BUILD ON AND CONTINUE TO GROW AS A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER.

THE ARMY DEPENDS ON ETHICAL LEADERS, NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF UNQUESTIONED INTEGRITY, WHO WILL NEVER PLACE THEIR DESIRES BEFORE THE MISSION OR THEIR SOLDIERS.

THIS IS THE LEADER WHO HAS THE QUALITY OF POSSESSING AND STEADFASTLY ADHERING TO HIGH MORAL PRINCIPLES AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EVERYTHING THEY DO.

SIMPLY PUT, THEY DO THE RIGHT THING. THIS LEADER USES INTEGRITY TO BUILD LOYALTY WITH THEIR SOLDIERS, THEIR LEADERS, AND THE ARMY.

SECOND IS COURAGE. HAVING THE MORAL AND PHYSICAL COURAGE—QUALITIES THAT GIVE STRENGTH TO LEAD WITH HONOR.

THERE WILL BE SOME HARD TIMES IN THE FUTURE WHEN YOU MAY

QUESTION YOURSELF AND YOUR LEADERSHIP ABILITY.

WHEN THAT OCCURS NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER, GET YOURSELF UP, AND GET ON WITH LEADING.

SOLDIERS ARE WATCHING YOU, DEPEND ON YOU, AND RELY ON YOU. THE CITIZENS OF OUR NATION EXPECTS YOU TO.

COURAGE IS WHAT GIVES YOU THE WILL AND THE DETERMINATION TO NEVER QUIT AND TO NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE.

PERSEVERANCE, THE STEADY AND CONTINUED ACTION OR BELIEF OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME DESPITE DIFFICULTIES OR SETBACKS.

THE BEST WAY TO PERSEVERE IS TO VALUE TEAMWORK. THERE IS A CONTINUED NEED FOR LEADERS WHO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE ACT OF WORKING TOGETHER WITH ONE OR MORE PEOPLE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING.

YOU ARRIVED HERE AT THIS IMPORTANT DAY IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT YOU RECEIVED FROM YOUR TEAM. TOGETHER, YOU AND YOUR TEAM CAN AND WILL PERSEVERE AND CONTINUE ANY MISSION WHEN FACED WITH ADVERSITY AND DIFFICULT TIMES.

TAKE A MOMENT TO LOOK AROUND AT YOUR TEAM, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR FELLOW NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS. ALWAYS REMEMBER TEAMWORK AND THE QUALITY OF PERSEVERANCE.

FINALLY, I CHARGE YOU TO HAVE A VISION FOR THE FUTURE: THE VISION TO TRAIN YOURSELVES AND YOUR SOLDIERS.

GAIN THE ABILITY TO ANTICIPATE POSSIBLE FUTURE EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TRAINING YOURSELVES AND YOUR SOLDIERS SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR AND THE WELL BEING OF OUR NATION.

FOUR QUALITIES: VISION, INTEGRITY, COURAGE, AND PERSEVERANCE.

AS A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER, THESE QUALITIES WILL GIVE YOU A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR YOUR FUTURE AS YOU CONTINUE TO GROW AND DEVELOP AS LEADERS.

PROGRESS IS ALWAYS CARRIED FORWARD BY MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE A CAUSE GREATER THAN THEMSELVES. TODAY, THE TORCH TO MAINTAIN PROGRESSION IS PASSED ON TO YOU. YOU ARE NOT ONLY THE FUTURE LEADERS OF THE ARMY, YOU ARE THE FUTURE OF THIS GREAT ARMY.

IN CLOSING, ALWAYS KEEP THE INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER IN MIND. THEY MAKE THE TEAMS, SQUADS, PLATOONS, AND COMPANIES WHO WILL EXECUTE ON THE GROUND.

EVERY ANALYSIS, EVERY ASSUMPTION, EVERY DECISION, AND EVERY PLAN AFFECTS EVERY INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER. THAT VERY INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER

WHO MAY DETERMINE SUCCESS OR FAILURE BASED ON WHAT WE GIVE  
THEM. NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, LET'S GIVE THEM OUR BEST.

WARRIOR LEADER GRADUATES CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR  
ACCOMPLISHMENT AND GOOD LUCK AS YOU CONTINUE THE JOURNEY OF  
BEING A LEADER IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS – CONTINUE MISSION

“IRON SOLDIERS”

“VICTORY”

“ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE”